Setting- Dating Show

Roosevelt- Show Host (Matt)

Carnegie- Contestant number 1 (Jon)

Sinclair- Contestant number 2(Sara)

Booker T. Washington- Contestant number 3 (Nick)

Susan B. Anthony- Bachelorette (Alison)

Roosevelt- Hey everyone! Welcome to the Bull- Moose show! I’m your host Theodore Roosevelt and I was the founder of the progressive movement that began in about 1900 and concluded in 1920. My policy during my presidency was using the “square deal” to conserve natural resources, control corporations, and to protect the consumers. I always was known as a trust buster because I was the 1st president to use the Sherman anti-trust act in the form of a law suit against Northern Securities (which was a monopoly consisting of Carnegie and JP Morgan primarily). To protect the consumers of my time I passed the pure food and drug act to help prevent food poisoning and also the Hepburn and Elkins act to limit railroad power and rates they could charge. Then to preserve land I passed the Forest reserve act and set aside thousands of acres of land for the common people that could not be built on or sold ever. Now that’s enough about me let’s get back to the show.

Roosevelt- Please welcome our beautiful bachelorette, Susan B. Anthony! She’s the type of gal who knows what she wants, and she wants equality! Here she is- Susan come on out!

Susan- Hey guys! I’m excited to meet you all and I am hoping you are all interested and have some of the same views I have. You guys might know me already because I am the author of the book *The History of Woman Suffrag*e. In case you were wondering I have devoted my whole life to women’s suffrage. I attended my first Women’s rights convention in 1852 and from there on I haven’t stopped or backed down to anyone who has gotten in my way of women suffrage. I strongly believe that women should be equal to men. We work more than some men can imagine around the house with the daily chores. One thing that I enjoy doing in my free time is traveling all over the country. As you may already know, I have been working my whole life for the Federal Suffrage Amendment. This took me to congress and also to political conventions and labor meetings all around the country! “I think the girl who is able to earn her own living and pay her own way should be as happy as anybody on earth. The sense of independence and security is very sweet.” Since I am looking for a man who has some of the same views as me I would like to hear what the contestants think about women’s rights and suffrage.

Roosevelt- Ok guys, what are your views on women’s rights and suffrage?

Carnegie- Women’s Rights? Women don’t belong in a man’s world, there job is to stay home and take care of those that will grow to be hard working men. I believe that women have a job in society; it just isn’t in the world of politics. They should better the community, not by voting, but by organizing places for young children, and the homeless. This way philanthropists like me can help them do their jobs.

Susan- Ok I do not think that I can agree with you there. Women don’t belong in a man’s world?! “Men, their rights, and nothing more; women, their rights, and nothing less. “ Seeing as though I founded the NWSA in 1869 with my best friend Elizabeth Cady Stanton, I know what I believe in and do not let any man bring me down! We work constantly to get achieve the rights we deserve, most importantly the right to vote. You also say that women should better the community not by voting but by organizing places for the homeless and young children? We do not have the rights to even do this! There is no way any man would let us create places for the homeless. Men who are above us right now in society might be able to do certain projects like this if women and society were allowed to vote for what they believe in. To me, I completely disagree with what you have just said and now I will probably not be picking you to go on a date. Sorry but you seem like you have no feelings for women’s rights.

Carnegie- Whatever, I know what I believe and I would never let a women change my mind.

Sinclair- I think that women should have equal rights, especially the right to vote. Women are citizens in this country and should have a say in the way that it is governed. They pay taxes, they send their children to school, and they maintain the household every day, so why shouldn’t they be allowed to vote? They live in a community that is run by a police force, a mayor, and a governor, so they should have a say in where their taxes go and how their town is run. Our country is based on a democracy and the actions that occurred over the course of our countries history was a natural evolution of a free and democratic society. They should have equal rights because they are a part of this country and therefore should have the right to say how it is governed.

Susan- Wow Sinclair! I am really impressed with your response! I have never met a man who has said something like that to me, I really and glad that we agree on many of the same things. I really wish you could have been present on the grand jury of my court case, Unites States Vs. Susan B. Anthony. I had gone to vote at a voting booth on November 18, 1872 and gotten caught but it was ok because I wanted to stand up for what I believe

Booker T. Washington- Seeing as my rights have been suppressed for so long and still are, I believe that everyone, including women, should be equal. If everyone is equal in society, we can put aside our discrimination and shift our attention back to bettering society for everyone. A structured, equal society with opportunities for everyone, as well as a stable economy is what America needs in order to prosper and survive further.

Susan- Thank you Booker. It makes me really happy that you know how women feel and can see where I’m coming from. I feel like we might have a lot in common

Booker T. Washington- Oh you are very welcome and I also think that we would get along very well.

Roosevelt- Ok next question, Susan would you like to ask this one?

Susan- Yes, I would Teddy. So boys, how do big businesses make you feel? In my past I have not really been a fan of big businesses because they usually paid women nothing to work for them and put us in very dangerous working conditions. But, I would like to see all of your view points on the issue so please tell me how you feel about big businesses.

Carnegie- I don’t know about you, but I am a very big fan of large companies. I have spear-headed many of them myself, and my steel company has dominated the industry for decades. I am the richest man in the world and I’m proud of it. I believe that it is only fair that the weak, are consumed by the powerful. I also think that it is the rich person’s duty to aid the weak though. Philanthropy is something that I take pride in. my wish is to donate my entire fortune before I die.

Susan- I accept that you are proud of what you have created and how you are very rich but are you saying that the weak such as women are consumed by the powerful men?

Carnegie- No, no. That is not at all what I think. I just believe that the poor people in this country should be owned by big businesses and people such as me should also aid the poor.

Susan- Oh okay I agree!

Sinclair- I feel that big businesses are ruining our country. They have too much power and are not able to be regulated. Companies like Standard Oil and U.S. Steel are dominating their industries and are not letting other companies thrive. These big monopolies have too much freedom to do what they want and they take advantage of it. Another big company that had no regulation was the meatpacking industry. There were no standards for labeling and inspecting meat. Only after Roosevelt stepped in and passed the Pure Food and Drug Act and the Meat Inspection Act did the meatpacking industry have some regulation. The Pure Food and Drug Act required a federal inspection of meat products and forbade the sale, manufacture, or transportation of adulterated food products and poisonous patent medicines. The Meat Inspection Act required all livestock to be inspected before and after slaughter and sanitary standards for meat processing plants. These two acts were created because of my book, The Jungle, which exposed the terrible conditions in the meatpacking industry. I feel that big monopolies have too much power and freedom to do what they want, and they should be broken up into smaller companies so that there is not one dominating factor in the industry.

Susan- Yes, you bring up a good point. Just like the men have too much power in society it is not fair for the women as well. Booker what do you believe about big businesses?

Booker T. Washington- I believe that big businesses provide opportunities for African Americans to show their skill and prove themselves in the work place. If African Americans learn the required skills to make it in the economy, we can eventually be accepted into the society. In order for African Americans to learn this, I established the Tuskegee School for African Americans. Here students are able to learn industrial skills and techniques in order to work in these large businesses and hopefully start their own or make their way up the social ladder.

Susan- You established the Tuskegee School For African Americans?

Booker T. Washington- Yes I did and I am proud of it!

Susan- Very Impressive!

Roosevelt- okay, so this is it. The final question and also a very important question to Susan, ask away!

Susan- Since the Civil war, How successful do you believe the government has been in providing the blacks with equal opportunities?

Carnegie- My opinion on that subject is a hard one. I can recognize the Blacks as being a plentiful cheap labor force. I believe the government has done all that it possibly can, the government isn’t acting too quickly which is a good thing for businesses. I believe that businesses are much more important than the labor force, which does nothing but complain. I donate money to many charities and organizations, thus returning the people’s money to them, and still my workers riot. I started off as a wee lad who made his way up the telegraph industry. If you want to become rich, help yourselves, nobody else can do that for you.

Susan- Okay you say if you want to become rich help yourselves, yet the African Americans sometimes do not have that power because of their skin color just like how women cannot help themselves with suffrage and voting because of their gender.

Carnegie- Well it’s not my fault I was born a strong man….

Susan- Ok I’ve heard enough of you Carnegie! Sinclair tell me what you think on this topic.

Sinclair- I do not think that the government has been successful in providing equal opportunities for blacks. They are still discriminated against and nothing is being done to stop it. There is a large degree of segregation still; with schooling, hospitals, busses, everything is separated for blacks and whites, and the government has not stepped in to change this. Ever since the ruling of Plessy v. Ferguson, the “separate but equal” clause has been in effect; but it is not truly equal. Blacks are still treated like the lowest class in society. Since the Civil War, the government has not done much to try to provide blacks with equal opportunities. I feel like the African Americans during the Progressive Era benefited the least because nothing was really done to try and help them; no laws passed, no bills created, they were basically left to fend for themselves with no help from the government for equal opportunities.

Susan- I couldn’t agree with you more!

Booker T. Washington- Since the civil war, how successful do you believe that the government has been in providing equal opportunities for blacks? Being a former slave, I have not seen many opportunities for blacks since our freedom and there is still a lot of racial discrimination. I believe to solve this problem, African Americans need to temporarily put aside civil rights efforts and focus on farming and industrial skills in order to obtain economic stability. Once African Americans are stable in the economy, our culture and wealth will eventually earn us respect and acceptance into the white dominated society. As I said in my speech at the Atlanta Exposition in 1895, for now African Americans and whites don’t have to be equal, but we have to at least work together in order to create a stable economy.

Susan- I like the way that you think Washington. This is now going to be a very hard decision in deciding who I would like to choose for my date!

COMMERCIAL BREAK

Roosevelt- Susan is in the back room, thinking over her decision. She will have to decide between Andrew Carnegie, Upton Sinclair, and Booker T. Washington. Susan are you ready?

Susan- Yes.

Roosevelt- Come on out! Tell us what you have decided!

Susan- Okay well, I am very sorry but Andrew Carnegie you are definitely out of the picture. You really don’t care at all about women’s rights so you basically can mean nothing to me.

Carnegie- (laughs) good I don’t want a needy women like you who only cares about getting her rights. WHO CARES

Susan- Goodbye Andrew. This was a very hard decision for me to decide between Upton and Booker. Booker T. Washington we agree on many of the same ideas and I am glad you know how I feel to not be equal in society and to be and underdog, but overall I think I am going to go with Upton because he really agrees with me on all topics I had asked tonight and I would really like to get to know him even more.

Booker T. Washington- It’s okay Susan I really do understand. If you ever want to talk as friends let me know!

Susan- Okay I will write to you!

Roosevelt- So there you have it folks, in the end the women’s suffragist Susan B. Anthony chose Upton Sinclair, the muckraker. Join us again next week where our new Bachelorette will be Alice Paul!

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